

Leicester,
Sept. 21/77.

Dear friend Garrison;

268 Though somewhat limited in time, I must acknowledge your very kind letter from Roxbury of the 16th, but which did not come to hand until the 17th. Since then, I have been away from home, returning only last evening. — I noticed the "Bothnia's" arrival at New York; but did not know whether you would, or not, spend considerable time in that neighborhood. Now, I understand, you are in your own house again, though you don't distinctly say so. We all give you a most heartfelt welcome home; and our warm thanks for the letter announcing your return and epitomizing the story of your goings & doings while away. I trust it won't be long before we meet. The story of your increased dimensions is "good", and a subject both of merriment

and congratulation; 150 lbs. is the highest point to which I have ever got; — 172 lbs. must make you look really stout! Well, a change of place, of air, of food, &c. is doubtless a good thing, occasionally, for us all. If coming frequently, it ~~doubtless~~ ^{probably} loses its power of benefiting to any appreciable extent. What you say of the pleasure and value of Frank's companionship is what I should expect, but is not the less satisfactory and welcome; and what you say of the uninterrupted success of your trip, as though your good angels had charge concerning you, lifts it all above mere pastime and a season's recreation. — Indeed it was far more than that; and I have no doubt your several visits and interviews will prove to have been marked days, times to refer to and to date from with all your friends, and always to be delightfully remembered by yourself and Frank.

For ourselves, the summer has been,

in respect of weather, unusually pleasant. It has had no drought, nor want of rain, until now, within the past 15 or 20 days; and all growing things have kept their freshness & verdure to a degree unusual in this climate. Extreme heats have not been known for any considerable time. During the early summer, neither my wife nor I were strong or well. On the 9th July we went down into Maine & stayed a couple of weeks at the Seaside; and, somewhat later, a week at Plymouth. We were both very decidedly the better for these little trips. —

My wife is now in Charlestown, where she has been visiting a niece for a week past, and is to be a while longer. My daughters are now both at home, each having been away upon visits; neither of them quite as well as I could wish, but still doing and going much as usual.

My mother is at Milton with my sister Mary, on Brush Hill, in the house next to where Mr. & Mrs. Geo. W. Greene have lived, & where he last-week died. In

the course of a week or so, she (my mother) expects to go to my brother Frederick's in Dorchester for a little visit.

- I did not get off this letter at noon, as I hoped to do, and so have rather lengthened it out. I sent you however by noon mail an "Advertiser", having a letter of H. B. Blackwell's concerning a meeting which Sam^l. Downer of Dorchester got up at Downer's Landing, a month or more ago, - a re-union of old Free-soilers, - whither C. F. Adams, F. W. Bird, &c. &c. went, and where George I. Hoar made a very good speech. I wish I could send you the paper reporting that meeting; but you must have it hunted up for you; - particularly I want you to see Dr. Charles Phelps's letter to the meeting. He alone made prominent the old radical, moral, reformatory Anti-Slavery movement, and the workers therein. As I recollect it, it was very admirably well done. - Frank Bird appears to me, really, as a humbug - which I hate to say, or think, of one who has done as much good work as he. Now he is sour, grumbling, and silly. Think of his affiliating with the Democratic party, & being Chief eulogist of Chas. Francis Adams, upon whom in 1861 & all through the war & long after, he could not bestow scorn enough! Affly Yrs. Sam^l May,

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